

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Presently claims 12, 15 and 16 are pending. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Lewis in combination with Espey et al. Claims 15 and 16 were introduced in the August 29, 2005 amendment.

Applicant has further amended claims 12, 15 and 16 to more clearly be distinguishable and patentable over Lewis and Espey, et al. Specifically, Applicant has amended claim 12 to require in part that "the cap is selectively positioned on the nut to direct an overflow of water to the overflow pipe". Claims 15 and 16 have been similarly amended. Support for this amendment is found at page 6, lines 9-17 of the application.

The amendment distinguishes the claims over Lewis, which fails to teach a cap, and Espey et al. which teaches a cap which is snap fit to the locking nut, and not only cannot be selectively positioned on the nut, but also does not teach that the cap is positioned to direct the overflow of water to the overflow pipe. Therefore, even if there was a motivation to combine Lewis and Espey et al. the proposed combination would not result in the invention as claimed. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

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